

Message Text

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OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 PA-01
ICA-11 /131 W
-----035491 011305Z /42

R 011117Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0290
AMEMBASSY BERN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 8045

1. SUMMARY: TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (TWPS) CONCLUDED ITS WORK NEAR MIDNIGHT MAY 30. IMPORTANT SPEAKERS RAISED QUESTIONS TO REFERENCE IN DOCUMENT, "... SOCIALIST STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE..." WHILE SOME GOVERNMENT REPS TOOK SIMILAR VIEWS IN GOVERNMENT GROUP DISCUSSIONS. AFTER MANY EFFORTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS TO DECIDE ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS IN G.B. (ART. 7), NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AND DOCUMENT WILL MOVE FORWARD TO CONFERENCE THE SAME AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. A CANADIAN EFFORT TO AMEND PARA 5 CONCERNING REPRESENTATIVITY DID NOT SUCCEED. TWPS AGREED TO ACCEPT ARTICLE SEVENTEEN AS DRAFTED IN EARLY SESSIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARA 6 (DEALING WITH EXCEPTIONAL CASES) THE LANGUAGE OF WHICH WILL BE REFERRED TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. ACTION ON THE "NON-GOVERNMENT GROUP" ISSUE CONSIDERED REMOTE BY EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS OVER SOVIET OBJECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO FACT THAT LANGUAGE DEVELOPED FOR ARTICLE SEVEN RE COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODY REPRESENTS, "AREAS OF AGREEMENT" AND IS NOT INTENDED AS PROPOSED TEXT FOR AMENDING CONSTITUTION. AFTER AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS TO IMEC REGARDING REFERENCE TO, "...SOCIALIST STATES OF EASTERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"EUROPE..." AND OTHER POINTS SEVERAL IMEC REPRESENTATIVES INSIST THEY REGARD LANGUAGE AS "UNDERSTANDINGS" AND WILL OPPOSE SUCH REFERENCE WHEN LEGAL DRAFTING UNDERTAKEN AT FUTURE DATE. WHEN TWPS DISCUSSED ARTICLE 7 SIMILAR VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED NOTABLY BY AZIMI, CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT GROUP AND BERGENSTROM, EMPLOYER SPOKESMAN. THE LATTER SUGGESTED THAT, "...SOME OF THIS LANGUAGE NEED NOT APPEAR IN ANY OFFICIAL TEXT BUT REPRESENTS AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT GROUP." OECHSLIN (FRENCH) REPORTED IN THE FOLLOWING TWPS SESSION THAT THE EMPLOYERS WANTED TO RECORD FORMALLY THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE CONCEPT. MUHR (WORKER SPOKESMAN) ECHOED SIMILAR OBJECTIONS AND ENDED BY SAYING ANY SUCH REFERENCES CANNOT BE LAID DOWN IN THE CONSTITUTION OR STANDING ORDERS.

3. NEITHER IMEC NOR G-77 WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN UNIFIED POSITION IN RESPECTIVE GROUPS WHEN DISCUSSING NUMBER OF SEATS IN REGION AND OVERALL TOTAL. IMEC FREQUENTLY BADLY SPLIT ALTHOUGH AT LATE MOMENT WOULD HAVE PROBABLY ACCEPTED 52 SEATS WITH 12-14 COMBINATION (I.E. AMERICAS AND AFRICA, 12 EACH; EUROPE AND

ASIA 14 EACH). G-77 ON OTHER HAND IN CLOSED SESSION
SUGGESTED 50 SEATS WITH: AMERICAS 11, AFRICA 12, EUROPE
OR ASIA WITH 13 AND THE OTHER WITH 14. IMEC REFUSED
PROPOSAL ON BASIS THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENT DESTROYED
APPLICATION OF THEIR CAREFULLY WORKED OUT CRITERIA. AS A
CONSEQUENCE PAPER NOW MOVES TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON
STRUCTURE LEAVING PARA 1 WITHOUT REFERENCE TO TOTAL
NUMBER AND PARA 4 WITH BOTTOM OF 11 TO 12 SEATS AND
CEILING OF 14 TO 16 PER REGION.

4. ALTHOUGH CANADA HAD PROBLEMS WITH PARA 3 REFERENCE
TO "...SOCIALIST STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE..." THEIR MAIN

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CONCERN WAS WITH PARA 5. THEY INSISTED ON SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE IN PLACE OF LAST SENTENCE READING, "FOR THAT PURPOSE..." THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE ACCOUNT TAKEN OF OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS ECONOMIC FACTORS (E.G. GNP) ETC., AND ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. THE AMENDMENT WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED IN IMEC GROUP FOR OPENERS AS SOME FELT THAT TAMPERING WITH ANY WORDING AT A LATE DATE COULD COLLAPSE OTHER AGREED TO PARAGRAPHS. WHEN PROPOSED IN CLOSED GOVERNMENT GROUP SESSION CHAVEZ GODOY (PERU) EFFECTIVELY DERAILED THE CANADIAN EFFORT. COMMENT: UNLESS OTHER FACTORS THAN POPULATION AND EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION ARE EVENTUALLY USED WITHIN REGIONS CANADA WILL FEEL THREATENED, ESPECIALLY IF U.S. RE-ENTERS, BECAUSE THEY ARE SIXTH IN POPULATION AND U.S. SEAT WOULD SATISFY "EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION FACTOR."

5. WHEN DISCUSSING ART. 17 THE TWPS DID IN EFFECT ADOPT DRAFT LANGUAGE WHICH IS INTENDED FOR AMENDING THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONFERENCE. ALL ELEMENTS OF EARLY PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED BUT PARA 1.(6) UPON WHICH THE TWPS WAS UNABLE TO TAKE A DECISION. THIS PARA WAS FURTHER AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: "IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES (FOR INSTANCE WHERE NO ESTABLISHED ILO PROCEDURE WAS AVAILABLE, OR WHERE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT CONCLUSIONS UNDER AN ESTABLISHED ILO PROCEDURE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME IN NO CASE EXCEEDING 24 MONTHS Owing TO UNDUE DELAY ON THE PART OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, OR WHERE THE RESOLUTION REFERS TO MATTERS OF ILO CONCERN RELATING

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TO A MAJOR EMERGENCY WHICH HAS ARISEN SINCE THE PRECEDING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE AND CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION), A RESOLUTION COVERED BY SUBPARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS

PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CIRCULATED, IF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN SO DECIDES BY A MAJORITY OF AT LEAST FIVE OF ITS MEMBERS." END TEXT.

IT AND THE BALANCE OF THE TEXT WILL BE REFERRED TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE.

6. THE QUESTION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS WAS RAISED IN ALL LEVELS OF DISCUSSION MOSTLY BY SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE BORCHTCHEVSKI WHO MADE NUMEROUS THREATS TO BALK ON DISCUSSING ARTICLES 7 OR 17 UNLESS WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WERE READY TO COMPROMISE ON EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECIDING THEIR SEATS (ART. 7 PARA 4 OF CONSTITUTION). BOTH WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN EFFECT REPLIED THAT THEY WERE NOW WORKING WITH SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN EACH GROUP AND THAT NO CHANGE IS NECESSARY OR ANTICIPATED. COMMENT: IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE SOVIETS WILL MAKE STRONG OBJECTIONS AT THE CONFERENCE AND WILL TRY TO GENERATE G-77 AND OTHER SUPPORT. RECENT WORKING PARTIES ON STRUCTURE HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT, WITH SOME ORCHESTRATION, THE IMEC AND G-77 COULD EFFECTIVELY ISOLATE SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE CHANGE IN NON-GOVERNMENT GROUP, AS WELL AS OTHER MOVES SUCH AS FORMAL USE OF PHRASE, "...SOCIALIST STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE..." SOME REGULAR PARTICIPANTS OBSERVED THAT THE MEETINGS WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WOULD KEEP THE COMPLETED WORK INTACT AND FINALIZE UNFINISHED POINTS IN ART. 7 AND 17. PARTICIPANTS CONSPICUOUSLY TRYING TO FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS WERE MAINWARING (CANADA), KASTOFT (DENMARK), AZIMI (IRAN), WHILE BORCHTCHEVSKI (USSR), BRIKI (ALGERIA) AND CHEVAZ GODOY (PERU) WERE FREQUENT DETERRENTS.

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7. TEXT OF TWPS REPORT WILL BE MAILED UPON RELEASE

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LATER THIS WEEK. VANDEL HEUVEL

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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To: STATE BERN
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